

Federal Homelessness Resource Guide
Arkansas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas



Engaging Partners in Solutions to Homelessness

Department of Veteran Affairs

General Services Administration

Department of Agriculture

Department of Labor

Department of Health & Human Services

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Department of Housing & Urban Development

Internal Revenue Service

Social Security Administration

Department of Education

Corporation of National and Community Services

Federal Transit Administration

(Updated August 17, 2005)

Service Through Information and Referral

Introduction

Homelessness is not a problem that can be solved by one Federal agency. In fact, government alone cannot solve this serious problem, but Federal agencies do have resources that can help. Federal assistance varies and includes *services* to the homeless, direct *cash* payments to the homeless, and *funding/grants* for homeless programs and assistance. The Region VI (TX, LA, OK, NM, AR) Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness is a group of Federal agencies that was formed to coordinate various homeless assistance programs and to provide individuals, municipalities, and organizations with information about what Federal resources are available to assist the homeless. To that end, this *Federal Homeless Resource Guide* was created by this council. Federal programs are often complex and lengthy to explain, so our approach in creating this document was to provide a brief summary of what assistance each agency has that might assist the homeless and provide a contact name and number to get more details if needed. This approach kept the relatively document short and simple and hopefully fairly easy to use. However, if you have any comments that you believe will help make this guide more useful, we would appreciate you emailing your comments to:

Sally Shipman at Sally_Shipman@hud.gov.
The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
Region VI Coordinator-Southwestern States

Finally, this guide is also available online at <http://www.hud.gov/local/tx/homeless/2005-07-27.cfm>

It is the policy of the Region VI (TX, LA, OK, NM, AR) Federal Interagency Council on Homelessness and its member Federal agencies not to discriminate because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, and parental status.

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Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Here's What We Provide

- Emergency Shelter Grants Program

The Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) program provides homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services. It can assist with the operational costs of the shelter facility and with the administration of the grant. ESG also provides short-term homeless prevention assistance to persons at imminent risk of losing their own housing due to eviction, foreclosure, or utility shutoffs.

Grantees, which are State governments, large cities, urban counties, and U.S. territories, receive ESG grants and make these funds available to either local government agencies or private nonprofit organizations. The recipient agencies and organizations, which actually run the homeless assistance projects, apply for ESG funds through the governmental grantee and not directly to HUD. Feel free to view all Community Planning and Development (CPD) city, county and state grants, including the ESG grant, or contact your local field office for further assistance.

ESG funds are available for the rehabilitation or remodeling of buildings used as a new shelter, operations and maintenance of the facility, essential supportive services (e.g., case management, physical and mental health treatment, substance abuse counseling, child care, etc.), homeless prevention, and grant administration.

Grantees, except for State governments, must match ESG grant funds dollar for dollar with their own locally generated amounts. These local amounts can come from the grantee or recipient agency or organization; other Federal, State and local grants; and from "in-kind" contributions such as the value of a donated building, supplies and equipment, new staff services, and volunteer time.

- The Continuum of Care

The Continuum of Care approach helps communities plan for and provide a full range of emergency, transition, and permanent housing and service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons. HUD believes the best approach for alleviating homelessness is through a community-based process that provides a comprehensive response to the different needs of homeless persons. The fundamental components of a Continuum of Care system are:

Outreach and assessment to identify a homeless person's needs

Immediate (emergency) shelter as a safe, decent alternative to the streets

Transitional housing with appropriate supportive services to help people reach independent living

Permanent housing or permanent supportive housing

This Federal grant assistance program is administered by HUD's Special Needs Assistance Programs Office. Grants under the Continuum of Care are awarded through a national competition held annually. To learn how you can enter the national competition, please call your local HUD office or local Homeless Coalition.

Continuum of Care programs include: Supportive Housing, Single Room Occupancy Housing, and Shelter Plus Care.

- Supportive Housing Program

The Supportive Housing Program (SHP) promotes the development of housing and supportive services to assist homeless persons in the transition from streets and shelters to independent living. The grants go to nonprofit organizations, local and State governments, and other governmental entities.

SHP features six approaches to help homeless people achieve independence. Applicants may choose the approach that best suits the needs of the people they intend to serve.

- Transitional Housing assists homeless persons with housing for up to 24 months with supportive services that help them move into independent living.
- Permanent housing for person with disabilities that enables special needs populations to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting.
- Supportive Services Only projects operate independently to link with housing from other sources.
- Safe Havens are a form of supportive housing that serves hard to reach homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating behavioral conditions.
- Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) is data-collection software designed to capture information over time on the characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness.
- Innovative Supportive Housing enables the applicant to design a program outside the scope of existing programs. The project must present a unique approach that can be replicated elsewhere.

- Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Program

The SRO program provides rental assistance for homeless persons in connection with the moderate rehabilitation of SRO dwellings. SRO housing contains units for occupancy by one person. These units may contain food preparation or sanitary facilities, or both.

Under the program, HUD enters into Annual Contributions Contracts with public housing agencies (PHAs) in connection with the rehabilitation that when completed will contain multiple single room dwelling units. These PHAs make Section 8 rental assistance payments to participating owners (i.e., landlords) on behalf of homeless individuals who rent the rehabilitated dwellings. The rental assistance payments cover the difference between a portion of the tenant's income (normally 30%) and the unit's rent, which must be within the fair market rent established by HUD.

Rental assistance for SRO units is provided for a period of 10 years. Owners are compensated for the cost of some of the rehabilitation (as well as the other costs of owning and maintaining the property) through the rental assistance payments

Assistance provided under the SRO program is designed to bring more standard SRO units into the local housing supply and to use those units to assist homeless persons. The SRO units might be in a rundown hotel, a Y, an old school, or even in a large abandoned home.

- Shelter Plus Care (S+C) Program

The Shelter Plus Care Program provides rental assistance to homeless individuals/families with disabilities. Disabilities primarily include mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and/or drugs, and HIV/AIDS or related diseases.

Eligible applicants are States, local government units, and Public housing agencies. These units of government may contract with a non-profit organization.

Eligible activities are restricted to rental assistance and administrative costs associated with administering the rental assistance. Supportive services must be available to meet participant's needs. The applicant or other sources may provide these services.

Here's Who To Contact

If you would like to know more, please contact:

Dallas HUD Office:	Phone: (214) 767-8300
Fort Worth HUD Office:	Phone: (817) 978-5965
Houston HUD Office:	Phone: (713) 718-3199
Lubbock HUD Office:	Phone: (806) 472-7265
San Antonio HUD Office:	Phone: (210) 475-6806
Albuquerque HUD Office:	Phone: (505) 346-6463
Little Rock HUD Office:	Phone: (501) 324-5401
New Orleans HUD Office:	Phone: (504) 589-7201
Oklahoma City HUD Office:	Phone: (405) 609-8509
Shreveport HUD Office:	Phone: (318) 676-3385
Tulsa HUD Office:	Phone: (918) 581-7434

and ask for Community Planning and Development (CPD)

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA)

Here's What We Provide

Before addressing homelessness help, it is important to understand what we do. SSA generally provides cash benefits to individuals (not agencies, municipalities, or organizations) under the two primary cash programs it administers:

- Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance

The RSDI program provides payments funded by the “trust fund” and paid for with FICA tax. The eligibility rules for retirement (including benefits for dependents) can be found at <http://www.ssa.gov/r&m2.htm>. The rules for disability benefits (including benefits for dependents) are at <http://www.ssa.gov/d&s1.htm>. Basically, RSDI is the program that is associated with the Social Security Administration.

- Supplemental Security Income

The SSI program provides needs-based payments to aged (i.e., age 65), blind, or disabled individuals funded from “general revenues” or income tax. Since this is a needs-based program, only those with limited income and resources qualify. The more in-depth eligibility rules for SSI can be found at: <http://www.ssa.gov/notices/supplemental-security-income/> Note that an individual who qualifies for SSI almost always qualifies for medical assistance through Medicaid.

It is important to recognize that being homeless does not qualify an individual for either a RSDI or SSI payments. However, many disabled/aged homeless individual qualify for SSI benefits since they often have little income or resources. For such individuals, there are several special things we do to assist. For example, we will take an SSI claim from an individual in an institution (where SSI eligibility is precluded), so that when he is released, SSI payments can quickly begin. Other things that we do to assist the homeless are listed at <http://www.ssa.gov/homelessness/> .

Often, homeless individuals need assistance in filing an application for payments, as they need to remember to show up for appointments and comply with other requests to complete the application process. If you are able to assist such an individual, you should complete a form SSA-1696, and you will get copies of notices, be able to discuss issues with SSA regarding the individual, etc. You can learn more about becoming an authorized representative and getting a form SSA-1696 at <http://www.ssa.gov/online/ssa-1696.html>. Also, visit the SSA web site at www.ssa.gov.

Here's Who To Contact

SSA has 151 field offices in the 5-State Dallas Region, and the nearest office can be located by going to SSA's web site at www.ssa.gov and clicking the link called "Finding your nearest Social Security Office" which will bring you to this web page <http://s00dace.ssa.gov/pro/foi/foi-home.html> . When you identify an SSA office, the phone number can be found in the local phone book, and we encourage you to contact them for any help you need. You may also contact SSA's toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

The United States Department of Health & Human Services features a structure of 12 administrative agencies. Each administrative agency has program offices and bureaus. The HHS agencies responsible for homeless grants are the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Children's Bureau

Here's What We Provide

- Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP)

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program offers assistance to help current and former foster care youths achieve self-sufficiency and make a successful transition to adulthood. Grants are offered to States who submit a plan to help youth with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support, and connections to caring adults for older youth in foster care and youth 18-21 who have aged out of the foster care system and may be at risk of homelessness.

- CFCIP Education and Training Vouchers Program

The CFCIP Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) program provides resources to meet the education and training needs of youth aging out of foster care.

- Abandoned Infants Assistance Program

The Abandoned Infants Assistance Program provides funding for the development of comprehensive service programs to infants and their families. We make grants to public and nonprofit private organizations that demonstrate strategies to (1) prevent abandonment; (2) identify needs and provide services to abandoned infants, especially those with AIDS; (3) assist these infants to reside with biological families, if possible, or in foster care; (4) recruit, train and retain foster parents; (5) provide residential care programs for abandoned children and children with AIDS; (6) establish programs of respite care for families and foster families; and, (7) recruit and train health and social services personnel to work with families, foster families and residential care staff.

Here's Who to Contact

The Region VI Office of Administration for Children and Families is located in Dallas, Texas. The telephone number is 214-767-9648. The Child Welfare Program Manager is June Lloyd, 214-767-8466 june.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov. The ACF Region VI Child Welfare State Program Specialists are listed as follows:

Arkansas: Amy Grissom, 214-767-4542, amy.grissom@acf.hhs.gov
Louisiana: June Lloyd, 214-767-8466, june.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov
New Mexico: June Lloyd, 214-767-8466, 214-767-4158, june.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov
Oklahoma: June Lloyd, 214-767-8466, june.lloyd@acf.hhs.gov
Texas: Sharon Butler, 214-767-8093, Sharon.butler@acf.hhs.gov

The ACF website is www.acf.hhs.gov. The Children's Bureau website is <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/>

The Administration for Children and Families, Family & Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)

Here's What We Provide

- **Runaway & Homeless Youth - Basic Center Program (BCP)**

The BCP provides competitive funding to local organizations and shelters that serve and protect runaway, homeless, missing, and sexually exploited children. We work to establish or strengthen community-based programs that address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families by providing youth with emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, referrals for health care, and aftercare services. The Basic Centers seek to reunite young people with their families, when possible, or to locate appropriate, alternative placements.

- **Runaway & Homeless Youth - Transitional Living Program (TLP)**

The TLP grants competitive funding to local organizations that provide longer term residential services to homeless youth and youth in at-risk situations ages 16-21 for up to 18 months. The TLP funding also supports maternity group homes and TLPs for young mothers and their children. Local grantees offer services that include safe, stable living accommodations; basic life-skill building; interpersonal skill building; educational opportunities including GED preparation, postsecondary training, and vocational education; job preparation assistance; substance abuse education and counseling; mental health care and counseling; and physical health care.

- **Runaway & Homeless Youth - Street Outreach Program (SOP)**

The SOP provides competitive funding to local organizations to provide street-based outreach and education to serve and protect runaway and homeless youth and youth on the streets who have been, or are at risk of being, sexually abused and/or exploited. The goals are to build relationships between grantee staff and street youth and to help young people leave the streets. The grantees provide access to an emergency shelter, survival aid, individual assessments, treatment and counseling, prevention and education activities, crisis intervention, information and resource referrals, and follow-up support.

- The National Communications System: The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS)

The NRS is a national communications system designed to assist youth who have run away or are considering running away, and their families. The NRS links youth and families to crisis counseling, programs and resources, and each other, as appropriate. The NRS offers a confidential, toll-free hotline 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Services provided include referrals to community-based programs and youth-serving agencies across the country; message delivery service between youth and their families or guardians to reestablish communication through a neutral third party; and conference calls among parents, youth, and resource agency staff facilitated by hotline staff and volunteers.

The NRS is the sole administrator of the HOME FREE program, a collaborative effort of Greyhound Lines, Inc. and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, to provide free transportation to runaways who wish to return to their families.

- Mentoring Children of Prisoners (MCP)

MCP is funded directly to local faith-based and community organizations to provide new mentors to children and youth of incarcerated parents. Grantees provide services, both directly and in collaboration with other local agencies to strengthen and support children of incarcerated parents who often struggle with economic, social, and emotional burdens.

- Family Violence Prevention and Services Program (FVPSP)

FVPSP grants are funded to community organizations to develop and implement effective strategies for the identification, requirement, and use of domestic violence adolescent dating violence, prevention services concurrently with the services provided through Basic Center, Transitional Living and Street Outreach projects.

Here's Who to Contact

The Region VI Office of Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is located in Dallas, Texas. The telephone number is 214-767-9648. The ACF Region VI Runaway and Homeless Youth Lead is Ralph Rogers, 214-767-2977, ralph.rogers@acf.hhs.gov. The ACF website is <http://www.acf.hhs.gov>. The Family & Youth Services Bureau website is <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/>

The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) is located in Chicago, IL. The Hotline toll-free number is 800- 621-4000. The Hotline TDD toll-free number is 800-621-0394. The website is <http://www.nrscrisisline.org>

For further information about FYSB's programs, contact the National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth, P.O. Box 13505, Silver Spring, MD 20911-3505; (301) 608-8098; fax: (301) 608-8721; e-mail: info@ncfy.com ; Web site: www.ncfy.com.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

Here's What We Provide

- FirstStep

FirstStep is an interactive software tool for community and organization case managers, outreach workers, and others working with people who are homeless. The information on the FirstStep CD-ROM will help you assist your homeless clients to access benefits from Federal mainstream benefit programs such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI); Veteran's Affairs Compensation; Veterans Affairs Health Care; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Food Stamps; Medicaid; Medicare; One-Stop Career Center System; and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

- Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Begins January 1, 2006

Medicare prescription drug coverage is available to all people with Medicare.

There is additional help for those who need it most.

Medicare prescription drug coverage pays for brand-name as well as generic drugs.

Look for a Medicare prescription drug plan that meets your needs.

Medicare prescription drug coverage helps you pay for the prescriptions you need.

Here's Who to Contact:

The CMS Region VI Office is located in Dallas, TX, and the main telephone number is 214-767-6423. The Dallas Medicaid/SCHIP contact is Gary Martin at 214-767-3537.

The FirstStep website is <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/medicaid/homeless/firststep/>

For more information about Medicare and/or Prescription Drug Coverage:

For Partners

Partner focused Web Site: www.cms.hhs.gov

Medlearn Matters: www.cms.hhs.gov/medlearn/matters

Open Door Forums: www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoor

For Beneficiaries

Beneficiary Focused Web Site: www.medicare.gov

Toll Free number (24 hours a day): 1-800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227)

Contact CMS Region VI Office (Dallas, Texas): 214-767-6401

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Primary Health Care

Here's What We Provide

- Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCH)

The HCH program grants funding to local grantees that provide a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to delivering care to homeless clients through aggressive street outreach, 24-hour access to emergency health services, primary care, mental health and substance abuse services, case management, and client advocacy. Emphasis is placed on coordinating efforts with other community health providers and social service agencies.

Here's Who to Contact:

The HRSA Dallas Regional Division Office supports Region 6 States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma & Texas. Please contact Shirley Henley at 214-767-3872. The HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care, State & Community Assistance Office contact person is Cephas Goldman at 301-594-4488. The HRSA homeless website is <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/hchirc>.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services

Here's What We Provide

- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

The PATH Program provides funding to States and territories to fund local organizations providing community-based outreach, screening and diagnostic services, community mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, case management services, supervisory services in residential settings, and a limited set of housing services including services to help clients access housing resources. Local PATH-supported organizations provide these wide-ranging services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, as well as individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Almost all States use PATH funds to provide outreach services to contact and engage homeless people who have not used services.

Here's Who to Contact

SAMHSA does not use regional offices. Please contact the Rockville, MD Office at 240-276-2000. The SAMHSA website is <http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov>. The National Resource and Training Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness website is <http://www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov/>

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

Here's What We Provide

We help homeless veterans live as self-sufficient and independent citizens. In fact, we're the only Federal agency that provides substantial hands-on assistance directly to the homeless. Although limited to veterans and their dependents, VA's major homeless-specific programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless treatment and assistance services in the country.

- VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program

These grants are available to nonprofit organizations. They range from \$4,000 to nearly \$1 million, provide up to 65% of the cost of acquiring or renovating facilities that will be used for transitional housing, service centers, and/or vans. Partial operating funds may be provided through per diem payments.

- VA Assistance to Stand Downs

We partner with local coalitions to run Stand Downs for Homeless Veterans. In wartime Stand Downs, front line troops are removed to a place of relative safety for rest and needed assistance before returning to combat. Peacetime Stand Downs allow the homeless to obtain food, shelter, clothing, health care, benefits certification, and referrals to other programs. VA Stand Downs are often held in conjunction with community partners offering services for non-veteran homeless.

- Veterans Industries

In the Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR) Program, disadvantaged, at-risk, and homeless veterans live in community-based supervised group homes. We contract with private industry and the public sector for work done by these veterans, who learn new skills and regain self-esteem. Veterans in the program work and pay toward upkeep of the residence.

- CHALENG

The Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education, and Networking Groups (CHALENG) is a nationwide initiative in which VA medical center and regional office directors work with other agencies and nonprofit to assess the needs of homeless veterans. The purpose is to develop action plans to meet identified needs and to develop directories of community resources to be used by homeless veterans.

- HCHV Program

Our Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program provides outreach, physical and psychiatric health exams, treatment and referrals to homeless veterans with mental health problems (including substance abuse). The program serves over 20,000 homeless veterans each year.

- DCHV

The Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) Program provides residential treatment and rehabilitation to approximately 5,000 homeless veterans each year. The average length of stay in the program is four months. The domiciliaries conduct outreach and referral; vocational counseling and rehabilitation; and post-discharge community support.

- HUD-VASH

We partner with HUD to provide permanent housing through Section 8 housing vouchers and ongoing treatment to the harder-to-serve homeless veterans who are suffering with mental illness or substance abuse. Our staff at 35 sites provides outreach, clinical care and ongoing case management services.

- Supported Housing

This program helps veterans find and retain permanent housing. We provide clinical support to the veteran.

- Drop-In Centers

These programs provide a daytime sanctuary where homeless veterans can clean up, wash their clothes, and participate in a variety of therapeutic and rehabilitative activities. Referrals to longer-term assistance are also available.

- Comprehensive Homeless Centers

VA's Comprehensive Homeless Centers (CHC) provide the full range of VA homeless efforts in Anchorage, Brooklyn, Cleveland, Dallas, Little Rock, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and West Los Angeles.

- VBA-VHA Special Outreach and Benefits Assistance

Veterans Benefits Counselors provide outreach, benefits counseling and referrals to eligible veterans applying for VA benefits. New VBA procedures are reducing the processing times for homeless veterans' benefits claims.

- VBA's Acquired Property Sales for Homeless Providers

This program makes all the properties we obtain through foreclosures on VA-insured mortgages available for sale to homeless provider organizations at a discount of 20 to 50 percent, depending on time of the market.

- VA Excess Property for Homeless Veterans Initiative

Excess personal property, such as hats, parkas, footwear, socks, sleeping bags, and other items are available to homeless veterans and homeless veteran programs. A Compensated Work Therapy Program employing formerly homeless veterans has been established at the Medical Center in Lyons, NJ to receive, warehouse, and ship these goods to VA homeless programs across the country.

Here's Who to Contact

West Texas and New Mexico:

Steve Cohen

520 792-1450 extension 5475

Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana:

Estella Morris

501 257-4499

Texas:

Greta Mankins

214 857-0374

Or visit the VA website at www.va.gov

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (USDE)

Here's What We Provide

We provide formula grants to each State and several territories that assist children and youth experiencing homelessness to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. We send the funds to the State education agency, which is allowed to keep up to 25% of the total grant amount at the State level for providing Statewide activities, such as the following:

- professional development for schools, shelters, and other service providers
- printing and disseminating brochures and posters
- maintaining a toll-free "hotline"
- establishing collaborations to resolve homeless education issues
- producing videos to inform schools and service providers about homeless education

The remaining 75% of the State grant allotment must go to local school districts, including charter schools, through a competitive grant process. At the local level, schools can use the money for a wide range of activities to assist students experiencing homelessness. The funds are most often used for the following types of activities:

- tutoring (before school, after school, summer, and week-ends)
- social work services (case management)
- clothing, shoes, and school supplies
- professional development for school staff and community-based organizations
- homeless awareness activities
- supplemental transportation

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is part of the No Child Left Behind Act and is more commonly called "the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program" or simply "McKinney-Vento." The Act includes a number of provisions that help homeless students, including the following:

- Each school district is required to have a homeless liaison to assist homeless students with enrollment and other school-related issues.
- Students who become homeless are allowed to remain in the school they were attending, even if it is in a district other than where they currently reside, and the students must receive transportation to this school.
- Students who are homeless must be enrolled in school immediately, even if they have no records.
- If a homeless student is denied enrollment, they must be provided the reason for the denial in writing, and they must be informed as to how they can appeal that decision.
- Homeless students are automatically eligible to receive free school meals without completing extra paperwork.

Here's Who To Contact

Each State in Region VI is required to have a State Coordinator for Homeless Education who manages the McKinney-Vento program for their State. We encourage you to contact your State Coordinator for any help you might need regarding education for children and youth in homeless situations.

Arkansas: Ms. Susan Underwood, Arkansas Department of Education,
(501) 682-4847, email: sunderwood@arkedu.k12.ar.us

Louisiana: Ms. Deidre G. Kibbe, Louisiana Department of Education,
(225) 342-5688, email: Deidre.Kibbe@LA.GOV
Website: <http://www.doe.State.la.us/lde/specialp/1315.html>

New Mexico: Mr. Joseph Sanchez, Public Education Department, School Health Unit, (505) 827-1805, email: jsanchez@ped.State.nm.us
Website: <http://www.sde.State.nm.us/div/sipds/Title1>

Oklahoma: Mr. Dennis Dwyer, Oklahoma State Department of Education,
(405) 522-4511, email: Dennis_Dwyer@sde.State.ok.us

Texas: Ms. Barbara James, The University of Texas at Austin, Charles A. Dana Center,
(512) 475-8765, email: babawawa@mail.utexas.edu
Website: <http://www.utdanacenter.org/theo>

Our Federal contact for McKinney-Vento is Gary Rutkin, US Department of Education,
(202) 260-4412, email: Gary.Rutkin@ed.gov

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

USDA Rural Development Housing Programs

Here's What We Provide

USDA Rural Development Housing Programs provide very low to moderate income families in rural communities (population 10,000 or less) with decent, safe, and affordable housing through the Multi-family Housing and Single Family Housing programs. There is no program specifically designed to address homelessness. However, to help tackle this issue the following program is available as an option:

- Rental Assistance (RA)

RA is a supplement to the basic rent that a USDA Rural Development financed property charges its tenants. These tenants must be low or very low income and the availability of assistance will vary with each property. RA is assigned to the property and does not transfer with the tenant.

Here's Who To Contact

USDA Rural Development has numerous local offices in the 5-State region. The nearest office can be determined by going to Rural Development's website at www.rurdev.usda.gov and clicking the link called "State Offices" which will bring to you a web page with links to all 50 States. By clicking on a particular State, you will access that State's website, and then you click on the "Offices" link. Please note that the local offices service different counties, so you will need to input your particular county to find the correct office.

Texas has 30 local offices. You can access information on the local office nearest you by going to <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/officeinfo.htm>, this link will ask for your county and then will provide a link to the office that services your community. Please contact the local office serving your area to obtain contact information for properties. The Housing Programs Director for Texas is Michael Meehan, and he can be contacted at 254-742-9770.

USDA Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) Programs

Here's What We Provide:

Alleviating Hunger In Your Community

USDA Food and Nutrition Service Programs provide food and nutrition assistance in partnership with cooperating agencies and organizations. FNS provides children and needy families with better access to food and a more healthful diet through its programs

and nutrition education efforts and supports America's agriculture by providing an outlet for the distribution of food purchased under farmer assistance authorities.

Municipalities, and faith-based and community organizations (FBCOs) may apply to participate in Federal nutrition programs and provide benefits directly to individuals, or may serve as informational resources by referring these individuals to other organizations and agencies that participate in the programs.

- ☑ Do you run a summer program for low-income children that provides meals?
- ☑ Do you run a licensed child or adult day care facility or homeless shelter?
- ☑ Does your organization distribute food to low-income families & individuals?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then USDA's Food and Nutrition Service has programs for you!

FNS Programs

Food Stamp Program	Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program	School Meals
Food Distribution Programs	Summer Food Service Program	Farmers' Markets Nutrition Programs
Child and Adult Care Food Program	Nutrition Education	Disaster Assistance

Here's Who To Contact

A low-income household with multiple needs often may qualify for more than one of the Federal nutrition assistance programs. For more information on the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and its programs, please visit our websites: www.fns.usda.gov/fns for general program information.

<http://www.usda.gov/fbciprograms.html#FoodandNutritionService> for opportunities for Faith-based and Community Organizations.

<http://www.usda.gov/fbcifnscontact.html> for contact information around the country.

If you are in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma or Texas, you can also contact the Southwest Regional Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Coordinator, Rebecca Lucero, at (214) 290-9800 or email at rebecca.lucero@fns.usda.gov

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS)

Here's What We Provide

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a family of volunteerism and anti-poverty programs. Learn more at <http://www.nationalservice.org/contactus.html>. The most accessible of these programs pertinent to ending homelessness is AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America). It is a resource that might serve to leverage local access to grants available through other federal agencies.

For 40 years, AmeriCorps*VISTA has been helping bring communities and individuals out of poverty. Today, nearly 6,000 AmeriCorps*VISTA members serve in hundreds of nonprofit organizations and public agencies throughout the country. Members commit for a year as full time volunteers, receive a living allowance of approximately \$10,000, and benefits such as health insurance and an education award of \$4725. Members do not provide direct service so much as work as catalysts, encouraging community participation, piloting innovative programs, or increasing the capacity of local agencies and non-profits to eliminate homelessness through local initiatives that help individuals become self-sustaining.

For example, A team of three AmeriCorps*VISTA members may work with a municipality or a local non-profit in a host community with a focus on public awareness, coalition-building, or other capacity-related activity. VISTA members may assist in establishing a hub to connect resources and to recruit and place community volunteers with local initiatives. VISTA members may work with government agencies, non-profits, and faith-based or grassroots community groups to leverage resources available in large federal grants to help, as an example, ex-offenders overcome challenges in obtaining housing and employment.

Application for this resource begins with submission of a focused Concept Paper. These are accepted for review and approval throughout the year. Projects are approved normally for a three-year cycle. Recruits are identified locally or from a pool of national service applicants on the web. The average project might place as few as three or as many as ten AmeriCorps*VISTA members. Orientation and placement windows are scheduled in each quarter. Except where a cost-share agreement is advantageous, member costs are subsidized by The Corporation. To learn more about AmeriCorps*VISTA and to find the Concept Paper format, visit our web site: <http://www.americorps.org/vista>

Here's Who To Contact

Arkansas. Opal Sims, State Program Director. osims@cns.gov. (501) 324-5235.

Louisiana. Willard Labrie, State Program Director. wlabrie@cns.gov. (225) 389-0473.

New Mexico. Ernesto Ramos, State Program Director. eramos@cns.gov. (505) 988-6577.

Oklahoma. Theresa Long, State Program Director. tlong@cns.gov. (405) 231-5201.

Texas. Jerry Thompson, State Program Director. jthompso@cns.gov. (512) 916-5671x22.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (USDOL)

The Department of Labor administers programs providing employment and training services that are crucial components in the comprehensive efforts to address the cycle of homelessness. The Department offers both mainstream Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and targeted employment-focused programs that help lead to self-sufficiency. The USDOL strategy focuses on helping homeless Americans who want to work to become job-ready.

Nationally, there are five interdepartmental partners at U.S. DOL that coordinate workforce development services for the homeless. They include Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI), Office of the Assistance Secretary for Policy (ASP), and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

Here's What We Provide

- **Ready4Work**

Ready4Work, administered by ETA, is a program designed to provide mentoring and other transition services for ex-convicts. Nationwide, funds have generally been provided to faith-based and community programs to carryout the specialized activities.

- **Youth Offender Demonstration Project**

ETA's Youth Offender Demonstration Project was awarded in 2004 to the National Urban League to assist inner-city African American youth.

- **Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**

The Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI) and ETA have an interdepartmental joint effort to provide local workforce investment boards with Federal funds to provide employment assistance to disadvantaged individuals. Funds were also awarded to at least 48 faith-based and community organizations which help the hardest-to-serve homeless in the poorest neighborhoods.

Here's Who To Contact

For more information regarding the Homelessness Initiative and ETA programs, please contact the following Federal contact or log into www.dol.gov :

Regina Bowman

Ph. (214) 767-2154

bowman.regina@dol.gov

For more information regarding State and local programs, contact the following agencies,

Arkansas
Sandra Winston
Ph. (501) 371-1020
sandra.winston@arkansas.gov

Louisiana
John Warner Smith
Ph. (225) 342-3001
jwsmith@ldol.state.la.us

New Mexico
Reese Fullerton
Ph. (505) 827-6827
rfullerton@state.nm.us

Oklahoma
Jon Brock
Ph. (405) 557-7200
jon.brock@oesc.state.ok.us

Texas
Larry Temple
Ph. (512) 463-0735
larry.temple@twc.state.tx.us

Here's What Other Services We Provide

- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program

The purpose of the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP) is to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans.

Grantees provide an array of services utilizing a case management approach that directly assists homeless veterans as well as provide critical linkages for a variety of supportive services available in their local communities. The program is "employment focused" and veterans receive the employment and training services they need in order to re-enter the labor force. Supportive services such as clothing, provision of or referral to temporary, transitional, and permanent housing, referral to medical and substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance are also provided to meet the needs of this target group.

Here's Who To Contact

Louisiana
Lester Parmenter
Ph. (225) 389-0339

Oklahoma
Joe Dyer
Ph. (405) 231-5088

Texas
John McKinny
Ph. (512) 463-2814

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is one of eleven modal administrations within the U. S. Department of Transportation. FTA provides financial assistance for public transportation to transit agencies in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

All transit systems provide low cost mobility for people who do not, or cannot, operate a motor vehicle because of personal preference, low income, disability, youth or old age.

Here's What We Provide

- Urbanized Area Formula Program

The Urbanized Area Formula Program makes Federal Resources available to urbanized areas and to Governors for transit capital and operating for transportation-related planning. An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more that is designated as such by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

In Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas the State Departments of Transportation are the administrators of the rural and the elderly and disabled programs.

- Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)

The JARC program can complement efforts to alleviate homelessness. The JARC program has two major goals: to provide transportation services in urban, suburban and rural areas to assist welfare recipients and other low-income individuals in accessing employment opportunities and to increase collaboration among the regional transportation providers, human service agencies and related service providers, employers, metropolitan planning organizations, States and affected communities and individuals. This program is unique as other Federal funds that are eligible to be used for transportation costs can be used as part of the match.

- United We Ride (UWR)

The UWR program can also complement efforts to alleviate homelessness. The goal of the UWR program is to increase the comprehensive and coordinated human services transportation that meets the needs of transportation-disadvantaged individuals (e.g., older adults, individuals with disabilities, people with lower incomes), to increase cross-agency collaboration to facilitate, coordinate, enhance services and address redundancies of programs and services. Currently, funding is to be made available to State applicants to develop a comprehensive State action plan for coordinating human service transportation.

Here's Who To Contact

The FTA Regional Office in Fort Worth is the administrator of the Urbanized Area Formula Program for Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. The telephone number is (817) 978-0550

UNITED STATES GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)

Here's What We Provide

- Property Disposition Program

Title V of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, authorizes the identification and use of underutilized property for use as facilities to assist the homeless. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development collects data on Federal properties and identifies those suitable to assist the homeless. The General Services Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services make suitable surplus properties available to private nonprofit organizations, units of local government, and States for use as facilities to assist the homeless. These properties are leased, deeded, or made available on an interim basis at no cost to approved homeless assistance providers. Federal land-holding agencies may lease/permit suitable underutilized property to approved homeless assistance applicants. Surplus properties to assist the homeless can be found at <http://rc.gsa.gov>

Here's Who To Contact

For States of Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, contact:

General Services Administration
Public Building Service
Real Property Disposal Division
819 Taylor Street 11A10
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Attention: James Ferracci 817-978-4240

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

Here's What We Provide

The Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP) is a Federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (PL 100-77) "to supplement and expand ongoing efforts to provide shelter, food and supportive services" for homeless and hungry individuals nationwide.

The National Board, chaired by FEMA, includes representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; United Jewish Communities; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Salvation Army; and United Way of America.

Jurisdictions are selected for funding by the National Board based on a set of qualifying criteria. Local non-profit and government emergency food and shelter agencies that apply are prioritized for funding by the local boards in selected jurisdictions. The recipient organizations utilize funds for mass shelter, mass feeding, food distribution through food pantries and food banks, one-month utility payments to prevent service cut-off, and one-month rent/mortgage assistance to prevent evictions or assist people leaving shelters to establish stable living conditions. In each of the last few years, over 11,500 local non-profit and government agencies have received EFSP funds in more than 2,500 jurisdictions nationwide.

The National Board encourages local boards to place special emphasis on identification of and assistance to the elderly, families with children, Native Americans, veterans, and those who are mentally and/or physically disabled.

Here's Who To Contact

FEMA Region VI is comprised of the States of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. The FEMA Region VI office is located at 800 North Loop 288 in Denton, Texas 76209. Contact either Mark Mischak at 940-898-5507 or Harry Noftsker at 940-898-5115.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

The Internal Revenue Service employs 100,000 workers in four major operating divisions that are aligned by type of taxpayers: wage and investment; small business/self-employed; large and mid-size businesses, and tax exempt and government entities.

Here's What We Provide

- Information and Assistance

The IRS is responsible for administering the Nation's tax laws, policies, and processes. As part of that responsibility as well as to encourage voluntary compliance, IRS has charged the Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPEC) Department with planning/providing free information and assistance to low to moderate-income; elderly; limited English proficiency, and disabled workers and families. The SPEC offices provide this service via volunteer-driven programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), and Financial Literacy programs.

- EITC and Other Tax Benefits

The EITC is the Nation's largest and most effective anti-poverty policies, as it lifts an average 5 million Americans above the poverty line each year. The SPEC offices generate public awareness of the EITC, Child Tax Credit (CTC), and other tax benefits in an effort to ensure workers eligible to claim these credits receive refunds.

Homeless individuals who work (e.g., one week, one month, or six months, in a tax year) may be eligible to claim the EITC, CTC and/or other tax benefits. Individuals who earn less than \$35,000 a year and have one or more children may be eligible to claim an EITC refund of up to \$4,000+. Individuals who earn less than \$12,000 a year, are between the ages of 25 and 64, and have no children may be eligible to claim an EITC refund of up to \$300+.

- Free Tax Preparation and Financial Literacy Education

SPEC works with community groups, organizations, schools, and churches to establish/operate VITA sites that offer income tax preparation free of charge. VITA helps low to moderate-income workers and families keep all of their refund dollars. In addition, working through banking institutions and nonprofits such as Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS), SPEC promotes Financial Literacy Education to help lower-income individuals and families save all or some of their EITC dollars to improve their financial well-being as well as have a good start toward asset accumulation.

Here's Who To Contact

Community based groups, organizations, agencies, schools, churches and libraries that wish to help SPEC promote EITC, VITA, and Financial Literacy Education to homeless individuals and families may contact their local SPEC Offices by phoning the toll-free number at 1-800-829-1040.

U.S. Department of Treasury
www.ustreas.gov

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
1-800-829-1040 Tax Assistance
1-800-829-3676 Tax Forms/Pubs
www.irs.gov